

Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning

Many bills in the 2018 General Assembly pertained to Workforce Development and Adult Learning. Below are the bills that will have an impact on the division.

Bill Number	Bill Name	Effective Date	Description	Stakeholder Impact
HB 2	Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act	Upon Enactment	Altering the definition of "grower" to mean a certain entity that cultivates or packages medical cannabis and is authorized to provide cannabis to certain entities; establishing a Compassionate Use Fund to provide access to medical cannabis for certain individuals; requiring the Commission to evaluate a study of the industry relating to minority and women applicants and minority and women-owned business participation in the industry; authorizing the Commission to report to the General Assembly information pertaining to remedial measures; etc.	The Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning is to identify employment opportunities within the medical cannabis industry in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.
HB 16	Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships	July 1, 2018	Requiring the Governor to include \$125,000 in the state budget, in fiscal years 2020 through 2024, for the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish a near completer communication campaign; requiring the Commission to develop a web-based match program for near completers to facilitate the matching of a near completer with a certain institution; establishing a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship program to provide tuition assistance for students to attend a community college in the state; etc.	This law expands apprenticeship opportunities with Promise Scholarships.

Bill Number	Bill Name	Effective Date	Description	Stakeholder Impact
HB 1542	Department of Commerce - Employment in the State's Defense Industry - Army Alliance Study	July 1, 2018	Requiring, subject to the receipt of certain funding, the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, to conduct a study on employment in the state's defense industry; specifying the minimum requirements of the study; requiring the Department of Commerce to consult with certain entities; requiring the Department of Commerce to report, on or before June 30, 2019, to the General Assembly on the findings of the study; etc.	The Department is to conduct a study in conjunction with other departments; Department of Commerce is to report to the legislature.
HB 431/ SB 308	Foster Care Recipients and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth - Employment Program (Fostering Employment Act of 2018)	July 1, 2018	Establishing the Fostering Employment Program to provide employment opportunities for foster care recipients and unaccompanied homeless youth; requiring the Department of Human Services, in coordination with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, to develop and implement the Program and coordinate with local human services and employment entities; providing that a foster care recipient or an unaccompanied homeless youth who is not exempt from paying tuition is eligible to receive funding under certain circumstances; etc.	The Department and Division of Workforce Development is to develop and implement an apprenticeship program for foster youth and unaccompanied homeless youth.
HB 193/ SB 43	High School Diploma by Examination - Eligibility Requirements - Exemption	July 1, 2018	Exempting an individual from the requirement to not be subject to compulsory school attendance and to have withdrawn from school in order to be eligible to obtain a high school diploma by examination if the individual participates in a GED Option Program administered by the State Department of Education that creates a pathway to a high school diploma by examination for certain currently enrolled high school English language learner students under the age of 21 years.	Under this law, English Language Learner students enrolled in school under 21 may participate in the GED option program and obtain their GED.

Bill Number	Bill Name	Effective Date	Description	Stakeholder Impact
HB 781/ SB 842	Higher Education - Educational Excellence Award Eligibility - High School Diploma by Examination	July 1, 2018	Exempting individuals who have successfully obtained a high school diploma by examination from certain requirements relating to the Guaranteed Access Grant, subject to certain qualifications; requiring certain individuals to meet certain qualifications under certain circumstances; altering a certain age for eligibility for the Guaranteed Access Grant under certain circumstances; etc.	This law expands eligibility for the Guaranteed Access grant for those who have passed the GED that DLLR jointly administers with MSDE.
HB 1216/ SB 978	Career Preparation Expansion Act	Oct 1, 2018	This bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to collect and provide to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDS) specified identifying information on specified business licensees and students receiving industry and vocational certificates. The bill makes other changes generally related to assisting students who participate in registered apprenticeship programs in the state.	By December 1 of each year, MLDS and the Governor's Workforce Development Board must report specified workforce information to the Governor and General Assembly; the Division of Workforce Development is to approve and register apprenticeships that go towards credit in high schools.
HB 1234	Career Youth Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship in State Employment Opportunity Act	Oct 1, 2018	Prohibiting institutions of higher education from referring to a noncredit or credit course as an apprenticeship or apprenticeship training course unless the course is part of a certain registered apprenticeship training program; requiring the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning to partner with certain state departments to create certain apprenticeship programs to address workforce shortages; requiring the Division to make a certain annual report to the General Assembly by June 30; etc.	Under this law, the Division of Workforce Development is to partner with state departments to authorize apprenticeships that address workforce shortages; the Division is to make a report to the General Assembly by June 30th annually.

Bill Number	Bill Name	Effective Date	Description	Stakeholder Impact
HB 490/ SB 163	Public Health - Community Health Workers - Advisory Committee and Certification	Oct 1, 2018	Establishing the State Community Health Worker Advisory Committee to advise the Maryland Department of Health on certain matters relating to the certification and training of community health workers; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations for accrediting certified community health worker training programs; providing that, subject to a certain exception, a certified community health worker training program must be approved by the Department before operating in the state; etc.	This law requires the Division to authorize community health worker apprenticeship program.